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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/021,333	12/12/2001	Al Zahriya	A-69361/AJT/MSS	6180

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EXAMINER

GIBSON, RANDY W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

A2

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/021,333	ZAHRIYA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Randy W. Gibson	2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 28 August 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>7</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the inclusion of legal phraseology such as "means". Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arey et al (US # 5,637,838) in view of Christman et al (US # 4,936,399). Arey et al shows a portable weighing scale with a tool (72) that is removable (Fig. 7). Arey et al disclose

the claimed invention except the fish weighing scale (Fig. 8) is a mechanical spring scale instead of a capacitive load cell. However, Christman et al expressly teaches that a capacitive load weighing device is an art recognized functional equivalent to the purely mechanical spring scale in a fish weighing device and is actually an improvement thereon (Col. 1, line 58 to col. 2, line 3); it would have been obvious to the ordinary practitioner to modify Arey et al to use a capacitive weighing device instead of the mechanical spring scale, as taught by Christman et al, since these two types of weighing devices were art recognized functional equivalents. See MPEP §§ 2144.06 & 2144.07.

Conclusion

4. Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Although Harmon (US # 645,091) and Watt (US # 379,746) disclose a portable folding scale inside a case (IE: "shell") which included "a handy implement to manipulate the material that is to be weighed...[such as] spatula, 30, within the case 10, said spatula being held against the rear side of the case by a post or pin, 6" (Watt), or, "a foldable spatula, 29, and other articles...placed in it" (Harmon) , and although one could argue that a spoon or pair of tweezers is a functional equivalent to a spatula known in the art for manipulating small items to be weighed, there appears to be no motive found in the art of record to modify these simple mechanical apothecary's scales from another era to use a capacitive weighing device.

Granted, Thadani et al shows a granular material digital scale which uses a capacitive weight sensing device (Col. 8, lines 13-36) which is similar to the mechanical granular material weighing scales of Harmon or Watt, but applicant's priority date is earlier than the filing date of Thadani et al.

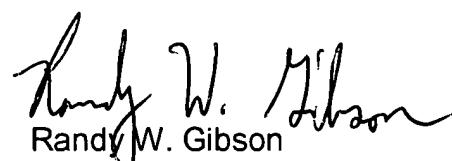
The fish weighing scales of Arey et al (US # 5,637,838) and Christman et al (US # 4,936,399) do not mention spoons nor tweezers, and there is no motive or teaching in the art of record to modify the housing of a fish weighing scale to carry either.

Fukui (US # 4,898,254) show a compact digital weighing scale using a capacitive load sensor similar to applicant's claimed device, but there appears to be no motive found in the art of record to modify the housing (IE: "shell") to carry removable tools. Some of the other art cited teaches the general idea of a removable pair of tweezers contained in the housing of a knife, or a removable spoon contained in the housing of a food container, but there seems to be no motive in the art of record to combine the teachings of these references with a weighing scale housing.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Randy W. Gibson whose telephone number is (703) 308-1765. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri., 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David S Martin can be reached on (703) 308-3121. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-5115.



Randy W. Gibson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2841